It is true that there are 5.21 million HIV infections estimated in the country as per HIV Sentinel Surveillance data 2005.

**Raising the standard of medical education**

3764. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India, State Medical Councils and Nursing Council of India are facing problems in regulating the profession as well as raising the standard of medical education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the standard of medical education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per the Indian Medical Council Act as amended in 1993, the Power to grant permission for establishment of Medical College/increase in intake capacity and for starting higher course of study vests with Central Government and MCI has to ascertain the availability of necessary infrastructure and other facilities through physical verification before sending their recommendation. For this purpose number of Regulations *viz.,* The establishment of Medical College Regulation, Minimum requirements for 50 MBBS Admissions Annually Regulations 1999, Minimum requirements for 100 MBBS Admissions Annually Regulations 1999, Minimum requirements for 150 MBBS Admissions Annually Regulations 1999, Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations 2000. Minimum Qualification for Teachers in Medical Institution Regulations 1998 etc, have been notified, prescribing minimum requirements for maintenance of standard in various Medical Colleges. The requirements/medical curriculum are recieved and revised periodically. The MCI also required to conduct Periodic Inspections in various recognized Medical colleges for continued Maintenance of Standard of Medical education and in the event of the college not conforming to the minimum requirements, action can be taken against the Institution for withdrawal of recognition as per the provisions of the Act. Corresponding Provisions for verification of Standards for allowing Institution to start the courses and for maintenance of standards exist in Regulations framded under the INC Act.

In order to ensure effective implementation of various provisions of the Regulations made under IMC Act, the Government is reviewing the entire process of Inspection, including appointment of Inspectors so as to make it transparent and effective. The Government is also in the process of formulating Clinical Establishment Bill, for providing among others, mechanism for accreditation of various Institutions including Medical College Hospitals.

**Pamphlets against pulse polio programme**

3765. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WEL FARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain Muslim organizations in the country, particularly in Maharashtra State have distributed pamphlets in Urdu against the Pulse-polio vaccination compaign, Stating that polio drops contain dangerous germs of AIDS, Cancer, etc.;

(b) what action his Ministry proposes to take action against certain elements that mislead and give wrong information about the health campaign sponsored by Government; and

(c) how many incidents of polio were detected in the country, particularly in Maharashtra State during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir, It is true that certain organization has published an article in Urdu Times, published in Mumbai and circulated in minority dominated areas. It was published in April & May 2005, and also in April, 2006 *in* local news paper in Malegaon and Bhiwandi towns. Zerox copies of this article were deliberately circulated in Malegaon and Bhiwandi towns.

(b) Editor of the News Paper was requested not to publish such type of articles. Meeting of Mullahas & Maulvies in Malegaon and Bhiwandi towns were organized to convince the opinion leaders of the community. Meeting of Madarsa Teachers were also organized both in Malegaon and Bhiwandi towns. Meetings of Muslim doctors were organized both in Malegaon and Bhiwandi towns. Messages of Mullahas and Maulvies were published through cable network in both the places. Press Conference/ workshops of Medical Personnel were organized with the help of Nagpur,